

## **Moran Amendment for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Added to 2007 Farm Bill**

### *Amendment Allows Dryland Crop Production and Grazing on CREP Acres*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran last week successfully added an amendment to enhance the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program before the House Agriculture Committee passed the 2007 Farm Bill. Moran's amendment allows dryland crop production and grazing on CREP acres where the program is aimed at reducing water usage.

"Water is a precious resource in Kansas," Moran said. "This amendment will help conserve water resources, while ensuring the doors of agriculture businesses in our Kansas towns and communities remain open. If we are not farming in Kansas then our economy disappears, businesses close and communities die. Our conservation programs need to recognize this and strike a balance that allows farming to continue in an environmentally sensitive way while reducing the over usage of water."

In its current form, CREP pays agriculture producers to leave land idle and not irrigate in order to conserve water resources. Doing so keeps land capable of producing non-irrigated crops out of production. Moran's amendment allows dryland farming on these acres instead of simply idling them. The program in Kansas is focused specifically on utilizing CREP in areas where groundwater and surface water shortages are an issue. In order to qualify for crop production or grazing on CREP acres, participants must agree to a conservation plan prescribed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to address soil conservation, wildlife and other environmental concerns in the region. Moran's amendment allows agriculture producers to continue farming and supporting the agriculture businesses that are critical to the survival of rural communities.

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the 2007 Farm Bill before the end of July. The U.S. Senate has not yet begun drafting its version of this legislation.

More information about this legislation is available on the House Agriculture Committee's Web site at: <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html> . Moran is the Republican Leader of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.

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